INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON

FY 2014 QUATERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

FONDO PARA LA ACCION AMBIENTAL Y LA NIÑEZ

1. PROJECT COVER SHEET

   1.1. NAME OF THE PROJECT: CAQUETÁ: MAINTAINING AND RESTORING CONNECTIONS WITHIN ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN SOCIAL AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

   1.2. DATES (START/FINISH)
   AGREEMENT/CONTRACT
   7/30/2013 TO 7/29/2017

   REPORT PERIOD

   01/01/2014 TO 03/31/2014

   1.3. PRIME PARTNER: FONDO ACCIÓN

   1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER: Click here to enter a date.

1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR): Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR OR COR: Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

1.7. USAID MECHANISM NUMBER OF AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT:
AID 530-A-13-00005

1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This project seeks to restore forest continuity and sustainably manage existing forest remnants by contributing to the consolidation of a bio-cultural corridor in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont and to the configuration of reduced deforestation belt in the Caquetá municipality of Solano, gateway to the Amazonian lowlands. We propose developing strategies that include generating the enabling conditions that guarantee the project's success by creating greater access to relevant information and developing conservation portfolios and landscape transformation strategies, which in turn will guide the development of participatory sustainable management models and conservation benefit mechanisms for indigenous and small farmer populations. Synergistically, the project will support key policy opportunities at the local, state, and national levels and provide the necessary capacity building for communities and project partners. This goal will be achieved through a detailed design of activities tailored for two selected landscapes (piedmont and lowlands), taking into account the cultural diversity of the two priority areas and ensuring a gender perspective throughout the project. Although the project focuses on maintaining and restoring forest connectivity within two priority areas, it will refine strategies, strengthen partnerships and facilitate policy frameworks for the future implementation of its successful models in the area of highest deforestation separating the two prioritized ecosystems, consequently contributing to restoring continuity between these Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: (1) the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont bio-cultural corridor comprised of the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park (Caquetá state) and the Churumbelos National Park (Cauca State) and their area of influence, where Inga indigenous communities and neighboring small farmers will be prioritized; and (2) the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands, an area that is associated with the La Paya National Park and Chiribiquete National Park protected areas. The project focuses on four key components: Enabling conditions, Landscape transformation

through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building

2. ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

2.1. ICAA INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

2.1.1 **IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably**

Q2 was important in moving the program in the direction of ICAA´s IRs. To start with, an interinstitutional agreement was signed up between CL and Gobernación de Caquetá, and an additional agreement, expected to be signed during Q3, was designed between CL and Corpoamazonia. Both agreements set up the basis to establish the action plan to carry out specific activities on land planning, information exchange, technical contribution and institutional strengthening.

During Q2, since we already signed up an agreement with ACT as principal implementer in Fragua – Churumbelos, "setting the ground" work was initiated to tackle activity CL-IR1-12. To do so, ACT hired a new technician and selected, in collaboration with local organizations, a preliminary pull of local promoters in Belén de los Andaquíes, San José del Fragua (including Yurayaco) and Piamonte. With its team, ACT begun a preliminary review of current conditions at property level in each of the villages prioritized by CL. This review covers information such as existent property planning datasheets, population data, preexistent PPC beneficiaries, productive systems already being implemented, among others. This sets up a technical framework to design landscape transformation activities, enriched by EA. During Q2, ACT also undertook an initial "on the field" examination of current social, environmental and public order conditions. It was concluded that with proper precaution actions it is possible to carry out the program in the areas prioritized.

In addition, ACT started the formal introduction of the program at local level (see Annex. Program´s introduction week report) (Activity Cl-ICA-002). To do so, it initially contacted and held meetings with indigenous, peasant, municipal and departmental authorities in Belen de los Andaquíes, San José del Fragua, Piamonte (Cauca) and Florencia to introduce the program, align it with local processes, and establish the best strategy to introduce it to final beneficiaries. The latter led both to a clearer understanding of the program by main local authorities and to a common expression of willingness to support it. Additionally, such meetings led to the carrying out of a week-long program´s introduction trip in March through which ACT, FA and Gobernación de Caquetá made the program known within local communities in Fragua – Churumbelos corridor. Each municipality from the corridor was visited and large meetings were held with peasants, indigenous authorities and representatives, community action councils,

local organization and municipal authorities. The focus on the introduction sessions were the 20 villages (veredas) and 8 indigenous reserves preliminarily prioritized by the program. Through the meetings held, the program was explained while expectations and specials requests from potential beneficiaries were heard. Out of the introductory meetings held, community leaders and participants agreed on notifying the rest of community members back in their home areas to further precise final beneficiaries. CL expects to work with all people who reside within the villages and indigenous reserves prioritized.

Since one of the program´s emphasis is to connect landscape transformation strategies with local policy instruments, CL decided to support the ongoing process on environmental determinants for Belén, San José and Solano, which is Corpoamazonia´s responsibility according with the law. By supporting these ongoing processes, CL guaranteed that these guidelines will be included in Municipal Land Use and Zoning Plans (POTs), and as a consequence the LTS will be developed in accordance with such territorial management legal framework. The aforementioned collaboration is included as one of the main themes of CL – Corporamazonia agreement.

As part of activity CL-IR1-013, the program has already identified an ongoing conflict on Natural Resources Management between NPU and Indigenous groups. The declaration of PNNAFIW, regarded in Colombia as a national natural park co-management pilot case, entails a concertation challenge, which in turn is an opportunity for CL. PNNAFIW creation responds to a process of intercultural collaboration between the Inga people of the department of Caquetá, NPU, IAvH, and Colombian Government, among others, and seeks the protection of highly threatened Andean-Amazon Piedmont ecosystems. Co-management has been halted since 2009 due to conflicting positions regarding PNNAFIW management strategies. During Q2, CL set up meetings with parts in conflict in order to facilitate the construction of a mutually agreed agenda that will serve as pathway to reactivate the collaborative management between conflicting parts. The program expects to facilitate to some degree the generation of dialogue between indigenous authorities and NPU.

2.1.2 IR2 – Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes.

Agreements between FA, Gobernación del Caquetá and Corpoamazonia directly address this IR. With the interinstitutional articulation between FA, ACT and Corporaamazonia, a route has been drawn to strengthen the process of environmental determinants in San José del Fragua, Belén de los Andaquíes and Solano. The adequate definition of environmental determinants in the these municipalities, together with joint work with planning secretaries, will fortify Municipal Land Use and Zoning Plans in their environmental component, safeguarding therefore areas of the territory crucial to guaranteeing ecological and social connectivity. Currently, part of the route envisaged encompasses the involvement of at least two professionals paid by CL, whom under

Corpoamazonia´s supervision will undertake environmental determinants construction protocols.

Another step aiming at this IR is related with activity CL-IR1-013, as detailed in section 2.1.1.

2.1.3 IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs

During Q2, and as a result of CL support in the participation of the Government of Caquetá in the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GFC platform), we received a communication confirming that Gobernación del Caquetá has been given GFC observer status, while its membership request is voted by GFC member. Voting is schedule for August 2014.

Gobernación del Caquetá´s inclusion in GFC is instrumental in increasing its capacity to utilize PES-like programs. This is so because GFC concentrates part of their work on identifying, studying and adapting pay-for-performance opportunities related to climate change, greenhouse emission and deforestation.

2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues

The second quarter was crucial in improving the understanding of environmental issues in the program´s work area. Through a joint effort by program´s consortia, the final terms of references of the ecosystem analysis were constructed (See Annex . EA Term of References). The ecosystem analysis (EA) is the backbone of Connected Landscapes in Caquetá strategy to achieve IR4. The construction of the terms of reference implied, therefore, a detailed work of examination to clearly establish the main answers the program and regional and local actors needed. This work included a preliminary definition of gaps and needs (CL-IR4-003), and a rough estimation of landscape-level analysis boundaries (CL-IR4-004). The ecosystem analysis that will be produced will have two main level of analysis: 1) a departmental dimension aiming at responding general strategic elements related with sustainable management of the territory, 2) a landscape dimension aiming at providing precise information about ecological connectivity needs.

Regarding activity CL-IR4-010, common work meetings and information exchange between FA and Gobernación del Caquetá were particularly important, since we were able to assure that EA will produce non-existent information useful to cover serious information gaps hampering governmental decision taking capability. It was also

agreed with Gobernación del Caquetá that CL will contribute to GIS by providing all property level baseline information (produced by ACT) together with all other data gathered. Same agreement was reached with Corpoamazonia.

For the EA implementation, a process of call of proposal was designed and deployed (CL-IR4-005). The challenge of the EA was bringing together the interests of various stakeholders, and at the same time producing effective and a detailed information able to shed light on the connectivity needs. The execution of technical activities related with EA will start during May 2014, month in which activity CL-IR4-008 is expected to occur.

In order to strengthen EA process and use resources more efficiently, FA also reached an agreement with TNC, expected to be signed during Q3, in order to exchange information generated for Caquetá and articulate, when possible, technical on the ground activities. Through this pact, TNC is expected to provide to FA all analytical and GIS information that is producing for the municipality of Solano. This achievement is of importance since it tackles activity CL-IR4-011 while making a more proficient use of resources.

During Q2, ACT successfully came to an arrangement with Digital Globe (web based company that provides high-resolution satellite imagery) to access high quality imagery from Fragua – Churumbelos Corridor. So far, two satellite photographs have been provided, but other ones are expected in the short term. Such material is not only already being used, but will serve as input for the EA.

In order to tackle activity CL-IR4-014, CL defined a twofold line of action. As a result, participatory research and community-based monitoring will be the target activities to support. During this quarter CL (ACT and FA) established the schedule and the methodology to undertake such lines of actions. Setting the basis for those activities, ACT and FA held interinstitutional meetings with Universidad de la Amazonia (UA) to explore collaboration alternatives related with the promotion of community research and monitoring, student's internships, among others.

Regarding activity CL-IR4-009, ACT conducted a review of existing and ongoing value chain studies in the area; this to prevent redundant studies. Out of this preliminary review, the program concluded that most of the relevant value chain studies for the area have been already produced. The latter entails that the scope of activity CL-IR4-009 will be reshaped during Q3. In addition, during a coordination meeting with C&G, both programs agreed that all value chain studies and related information gathered (initially those of milk and cocoa) or produced would be shared.

Finally, ACT held meetings with Regional Indigenous Council of Caquetá (CODIC), who is the gathering actor behind the facilitation of a Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Groups Policy Proposal. Through this proximity, articulation actions were drawn, particularly to get to know the current state of food sovereignty in the department and to outline a route to bring forward a policy instrument about it. The latter supposes a delay related with activity CL-IR4-017 since the current status of food sovereignty will be

fully depicted in Q3.

2.1.5 Support Unit Services

Not applicable

2.2 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND USAID KEY ISSUES

2.2.1 Improve Policies and Policy Implementation

CL is committed with participatory designing of program´s strategies, in opposition to predesign agendas, tools and plans. This is why CL is currently developing its PLAR agenda, strategically aligned with current social, economic and political regional and local situation which the program is getting acquainted with. During February and March the team started a preliminary screening of potential policies, guidelines, agreements, regulation, strategies and plans. This screening has provided a first route of work on improving policies and policy implementation, which aims – so far- at the following needs: food sovereignty, common access and use of natural resources agreements (land use conflict resolution), land use planning and zoning plans, and inclusion of gender approach into policy implementation.

In line with the aforementioned, during Q2 ACT contacted CODIC to articulate actions to develop the Food Sovereignty for Indigenous Groups Policy Proposal. So far, what has been achieved is a clear willingness to work from CODIC and a verbal agreement to undertake building up activities.

In what respects with Land Use planning and Zoning plans, CL deployed thorough efforts to strengthen POT´s environmental aspects. Such support was guaranteed through the inclusion of environmental determinants work in FA-ACT- Corpoamazonia agreement. Based on this agreement, and with FA and ACT support, Corpoamazonia will include environmental determinants in San Jose, Belén and Solano POTs.

Finally, in order to create conditions for policy advocacy, particularly related with amazonian territorial management schemes, collaboration with Avina, Fundación Natura, GIZ, TNC and Gobernación de Caquetá was arranged in order to carry out an international seminar on Amazon Territorial Management Schemes. Such event is envisaged to be an exchange and debate platform about strategies to Sustainable Amazon Management Strategies. Connected Landscapes in Caquetá has supported the construction of the final agenda and allocated resources to partially sponsor the event. The seminar will be an important scenario to identify policy design opportunities. The

final seminar dates are to be determined, but it is expected to occur during the first semester of 2014. By the time this report is summited, this event is temporarily suspended, not yet cancelled due to some difficulties affecting directly the governor of Caquetá. This dialogue activity is related with CL´s under construction PLAR agenda.

2.2.2 Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes

Various achievements have taken place during this quarter. To start with, the program team has strengthen its capacity to deal with gender issues through the participation in training sessions provided or co-organized by ICAA Support Unit. During Q2, CL participated in the workshops offered by IUCN within the Program for Capacity Development in Gender and Conservation, of which the first in-person module on Gender, Biodiversity Conservation and Development was presented on March 17 and 18, 2014, as well as a virtual session of the module on biodiversity conservation project development with a focus on gender. Knowledge gained has been incorporated in the readiness phase of the local teams in order to ensure the application of this component from the beginning of the project.

Particularly important in Q2 was the elaboration of ICAA Gender Plan. This document, elaborated in a joint effort between CL and C&G, defines the stepping stones to successfully incorporate the gender approach into both ICAA programs.

2.2.3 Strengthening of Selected Regional Organizations and Institutions

CL is committed with participatory designing of program´s strategies, in opposition to predesign agendas, tools and plans. Therefore, the program is developing its organizational and institutional strengthening plan, which is expected to be ready in the next quarter. Nonetheless, readiness activities (Cl-ICA-002) taking place during Q2 have served as a channel to preliminarily identify potential organizations: Indigenous Associations, Belén de los Andaquíes community action councils, producer's organizations.

Agreements arranged with Gobernación and Corpoamazonia are also aiming at this Cross-cutting theme.

2.2.4 Improve Region-wide Capacity for Conservation Through Training

As part of CL-IR4-018 and CL-IR4-019, the program is currently constructing its capacity building and training plan; this to address the goal based on a methodology that help us to set up the basis for selecting training topics, target organizations and beneficiaries, selection methods, incorporating gender approach, among other. Considerations regarding timing and topics will be highlighted by the plans.

Simultaneously, CL has been exploring collaboration options with various organizations, such as UA, HED program, USFS and the Environmental Education Interinstitutional Committee of San José del Fragua, the latter in order to assess the changes of articulating the program, and capacity building particularly, with the committee actions.

2.2.5   Increase Indigenous Peoples' Participation

Indigenous participation is crucial for Connected Landscaped in Caquetá. Along Fragua – Churumbelos, the program works with Inga and Misak (Guambianos) communities.

Throughout the community introduction and awareness-building phase that took place during Q2, Inga indigenous communities of the Caquetá and Baja Bota Caucana, together with the Misak community of El Aguila Reserve, had a fundamental role .The community introduction and awareness-building phase, which had an specific chapter for indigenous community, included the integration of the procedures of the project within the processes of promoting the *life plans* of these communities in order to ensure the sustainability of the actions to be implemented.

In brief, participation of indigenous groups was fostered during Q2 in the following forms:

- Specific chapters of the introduction and awareness-building phase took place with indigenous groups. The first one in Yurayaco Inga Reserve (San Jose del Fragua), where thru Tandachiridu Association the program was introduced. This introduction served not only to explain the project, but especially for indigenous members to share their ideas, interests and perspectives. This sharing has been useful for steering the program activities in such a way that they perform as supporting tools for *community life plans*. The same circumstance took place with Nukanchipa Association (Piamonte), who gathers Inga members from Piamonte and "Bota Caucana".
- Likewise, the program has started a closer work with CODIC in order to join efforts with this organization to develop a Food Sovereignty for Indigenous groups
- Finally, the local team involved in Fragua – Churumbelos corridor will consist of indigenous promoters selected by the associations according to criteria determined jointly by the parties. Although during Q2 the final team is not fully established, so far two indigenous members are preselected and have been introduced in detail to programmatic activities.

    During this period we worked with the following indigenous groups in the Andean Amazon:

☐	Cashinahua	☐	Cacataibo
☐	Culina	☐	Yanesha
☐	Mastanahua	☐	Siona
☐	Piro	☐	Cofán
☐	Sharanahua	☐	Ese' ejja
☐	Asháninka	☐	Amarakaeri
☐	Yaminahua	☐	Arazaeri
☐	Harakmbut	☐	Huachipaeri
☐	Machiguenga	☐	Sapitieri
☐	Shipibo	☐	Toyoeri
☐	Isconahua	☐	Pukirieri
☐	Shuar	☐	Quechua, Aymara
☐	Kichwa	☐	
☐	Secoya	☐	Shipibo
		X	Otros (Inga, Misak)

2.2.6   **Climate Change - Adaptation**

Not reported during this period

2.2.7   **Climate Change (Sustainable Landscapes, REDD+)**

Not reported during this period

3.   NETWORKING AND SYNERGY

Not applicable for this period

3.1.   ANDEAN AMAZON LEVEL

Not applicable for this period

3.2.   NATIONAL LEVEL

Not applicable for this period

3.3.   SUB NATIONAL LEVEL

Not applicable for the period reported.

3.4. LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Not applicable for the period reported.

3.5. OTHERS

Not applicable for the period reported.

4. IMPACT OF LEVERAGED RESOURCES

Not applicable for the period reported

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Not applicable for the period reported

6. SUCCESS STORIES

Not applicable for the period reported

7. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Not applicable for the period reported

8. SUMMARY

8.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The main achievements reached during the period reported are:

- The introduction of the program at local level along Fragua Churumbelos Corridor. It led to a clearer understanding of the program by beneficiaries and to a distinct pathway to start activities on the field.
- To get involved into environmental determinants process in San Jose, Belén and Solano allows CL to target two goals: to support POTs and to link it with LTS.
- CL´s support and facilitation to renovate negotiations concerning existing conflict between NPU and indigenous groups.

8.2 CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

The main challenges encountered were:

- To cope with current local fluctuating dynamics, well known to be currently affected by peace process in La Habana and presidential elections.
- To construct EA terms of reference to both bring together the interests of various stakeholder, and produce effective and detailed information suitable for CL´s purposes.
- To keep up with general institutional weakness, particularly that of Gobernación del Caquetá, currently under Law 550 (bankruptcy status).

9. ANNEXES

9.1 Annex A – List of Acronyms